

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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Air Force Perspective on VA-DoD Sharing



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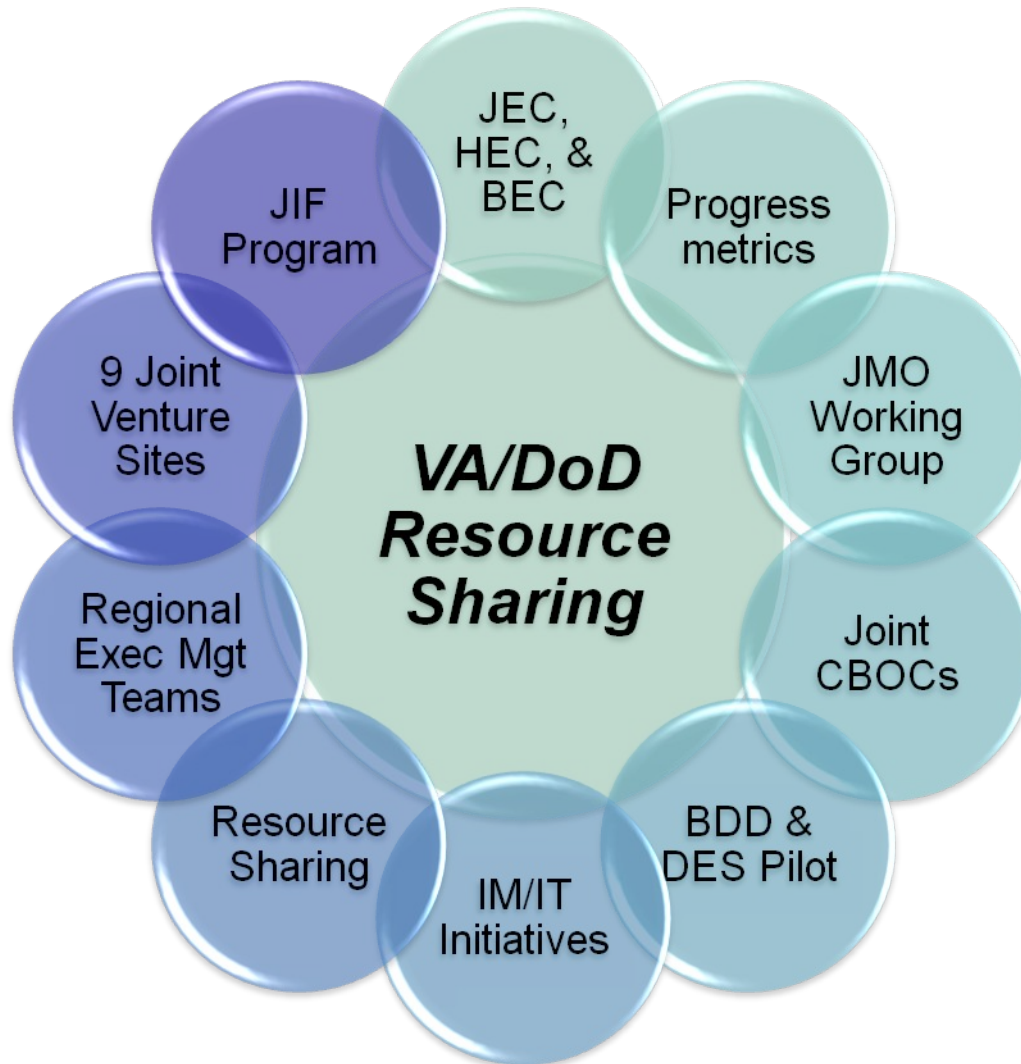
Overview

- **Commanders Perspective**
- **Program Alignment and Metrics**
- **AFI 41-126**
- **Infants Born to VA Beneficiaries**
- **Benefits Delivery at Discharge**
- **DES Pilot**
- **IM/IT - Relative to JIF & Sharing Agreements**
- **Best Practices**
- **Common Issues & Barriers to Sharing**
- **Master Sharing Agreement**
- **BCA/CCA/RCA**
- **AF Approval Process for Sharing Agreements**



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VA/DoD Initiatives

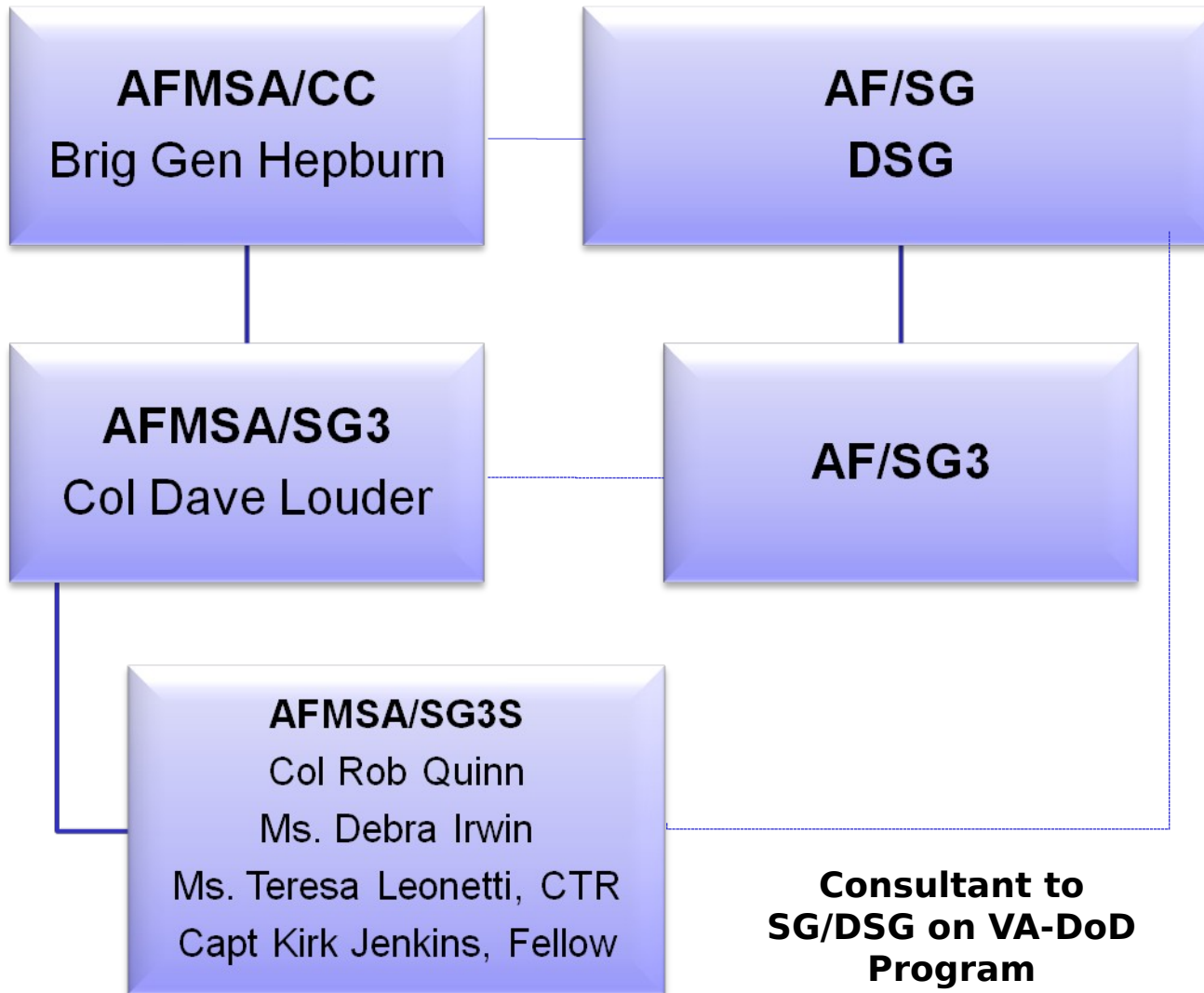


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AF/SG Alignment & Staff



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VA/DoD Program

■ **Sharing Agreements:**

- The AFMS has 80 active sharing agreements with the VA. Many of these agreements are large, master sharing agreements that encompass multiple service lines. This does not include AF Guard & Reserve

■ **Joint Incentive Fund (JIF):**

- The AF has had 36 JIF projects funded since FY04
- Over \$70M in funding received for AF/VA Initiatives



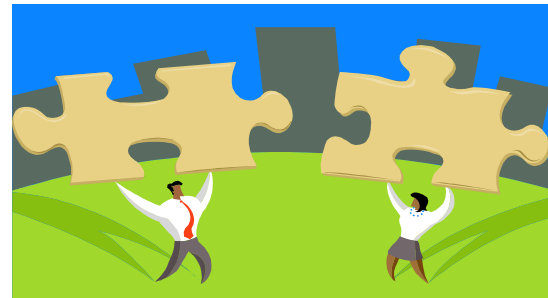


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VA/DoD Program

■ **Joint Venture Sites:**

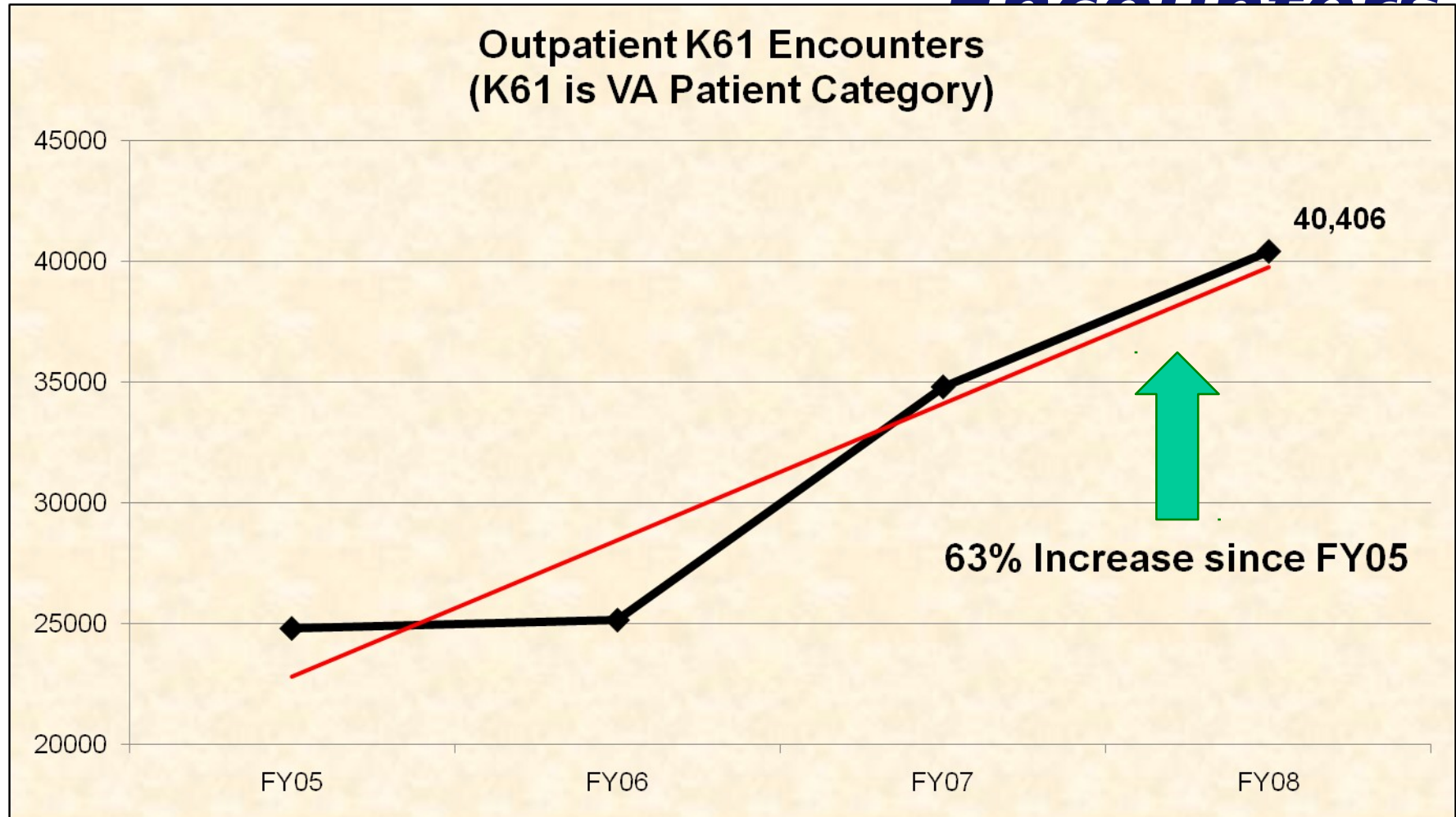
- Elmendorf AFB/Anchorage VAMROC
- David Grant Medical Center (Travis AFB)/VA Northern California Health Care System
- Keesler AFB Medical Center/VA Gulf Coast Veteran Health Care System
- Kirtland AFB/Albuquerque VAMC
- Mike O' Callaghan Federal Hospital; Nellis AFB/VA Southern Nevada Health Care System





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Program Metrics: Outpatient K61 Encounters



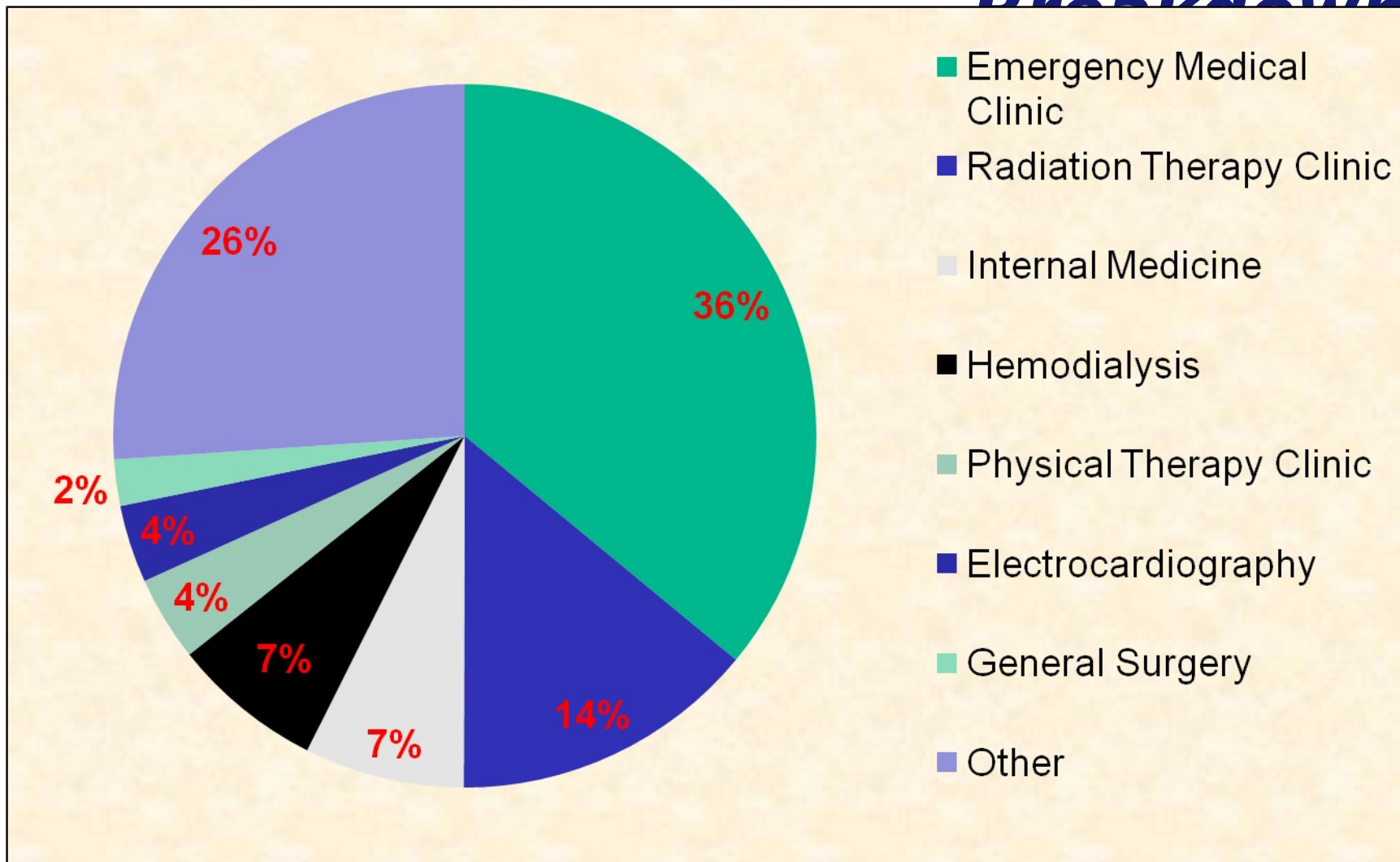
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Program Metrics: K61 Outpatient Service

Breakdown

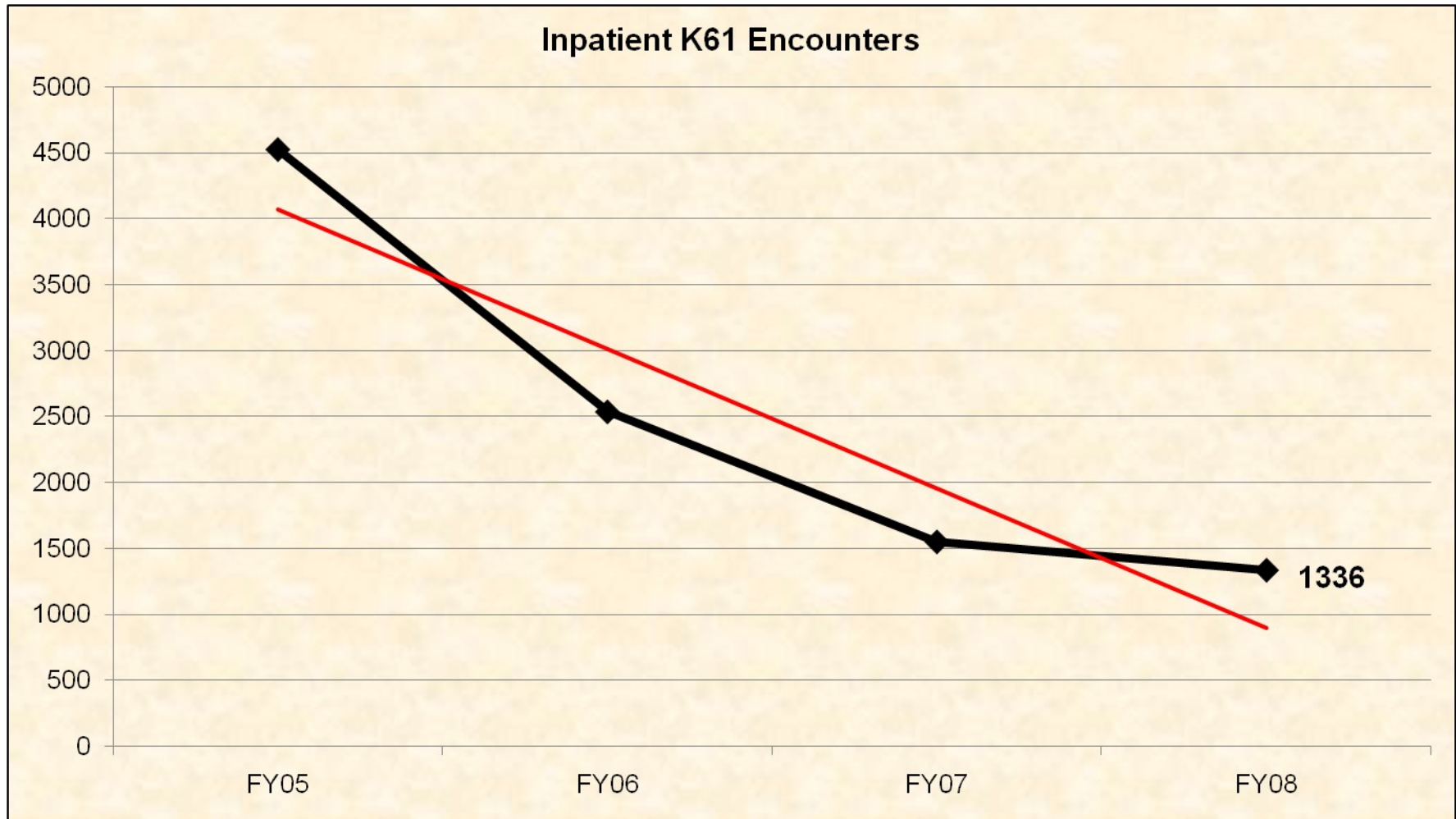


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Program Metrics: Inpatient K61 Encounters



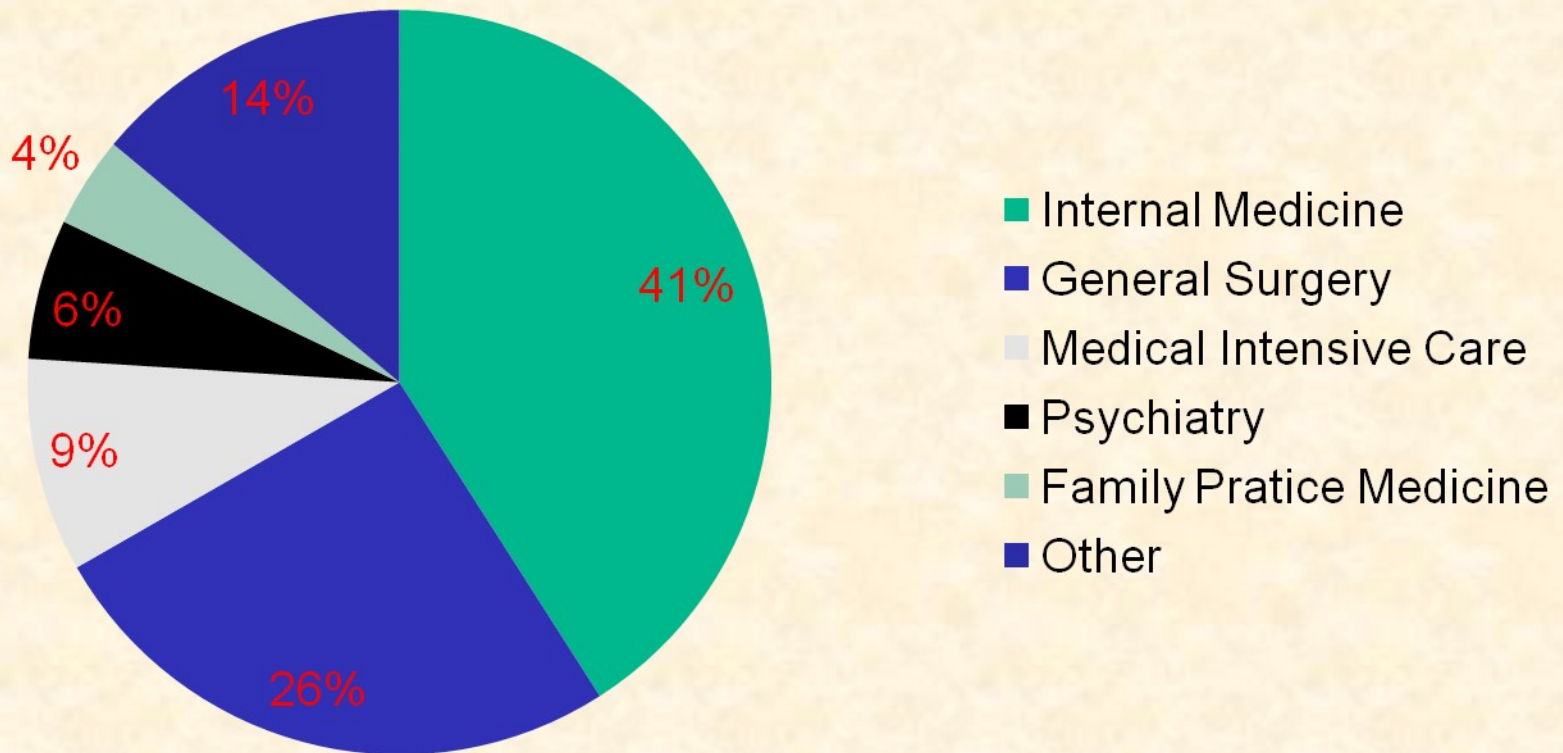
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Program Metrics: K61 Inpatient Service Breakdown

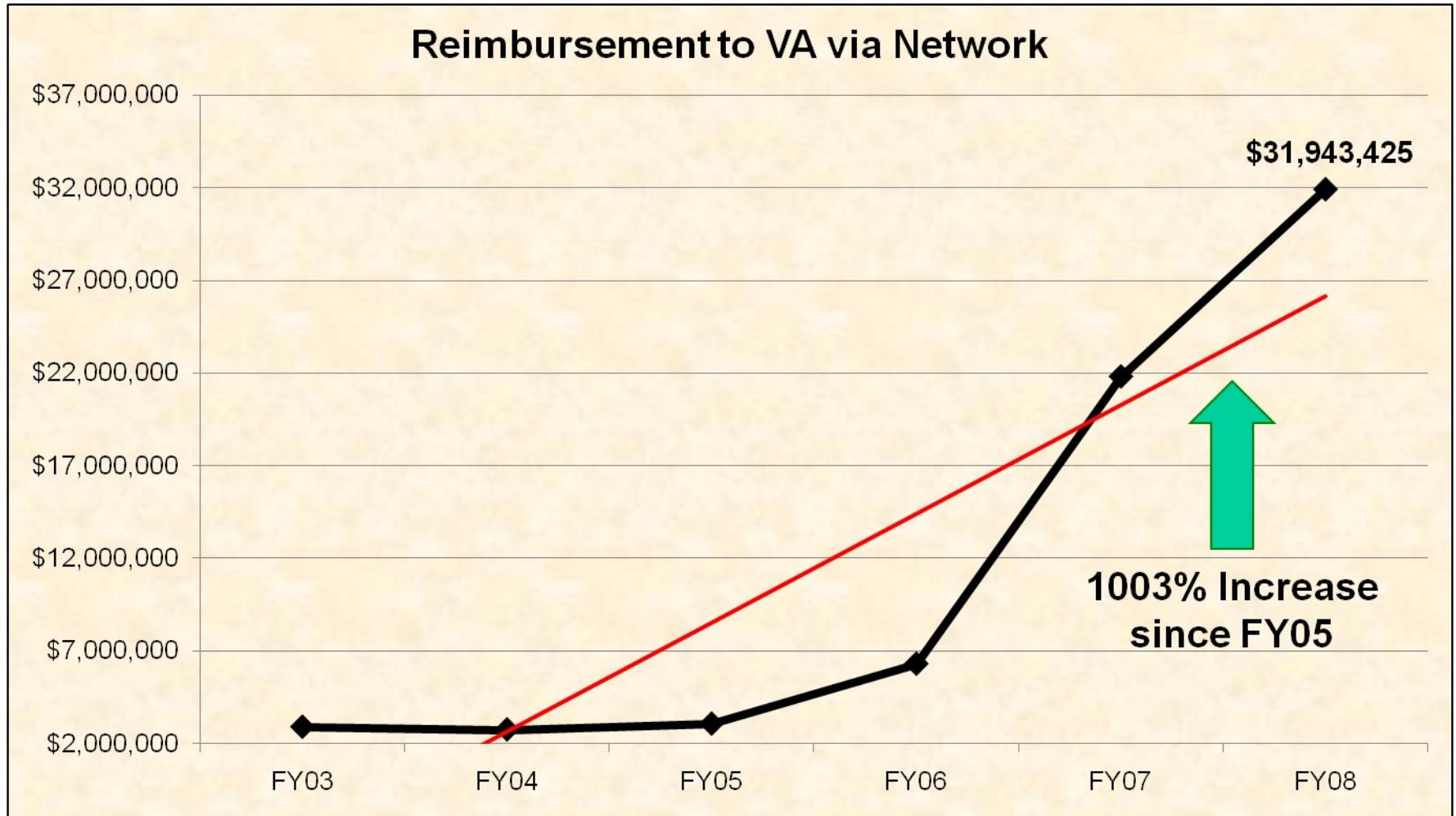
K61 Inpatient Service Breakdown





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Program Metrics: VA as Network Provider

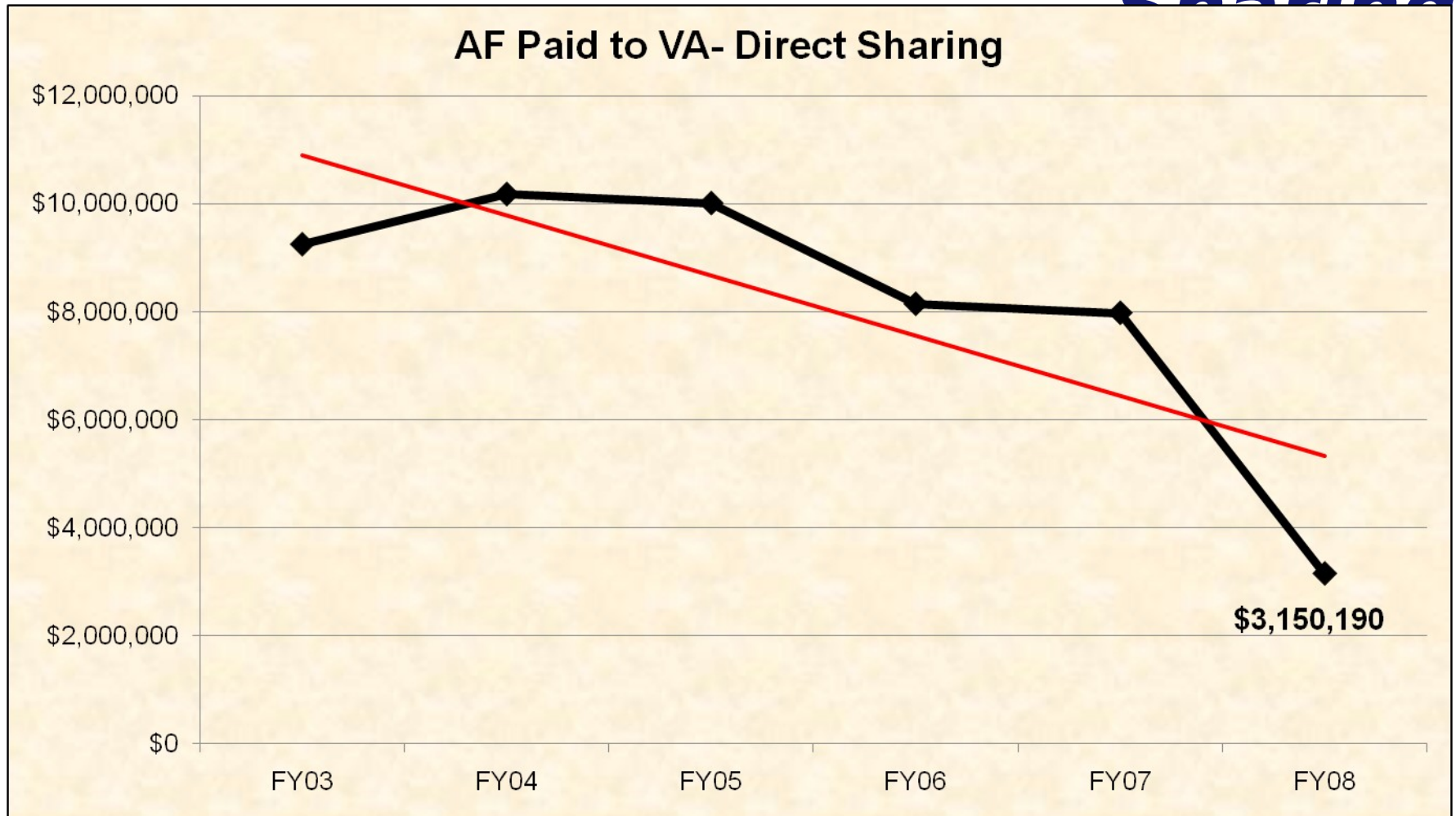


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Program Metrics: AF paid to VA- Direct Sharing

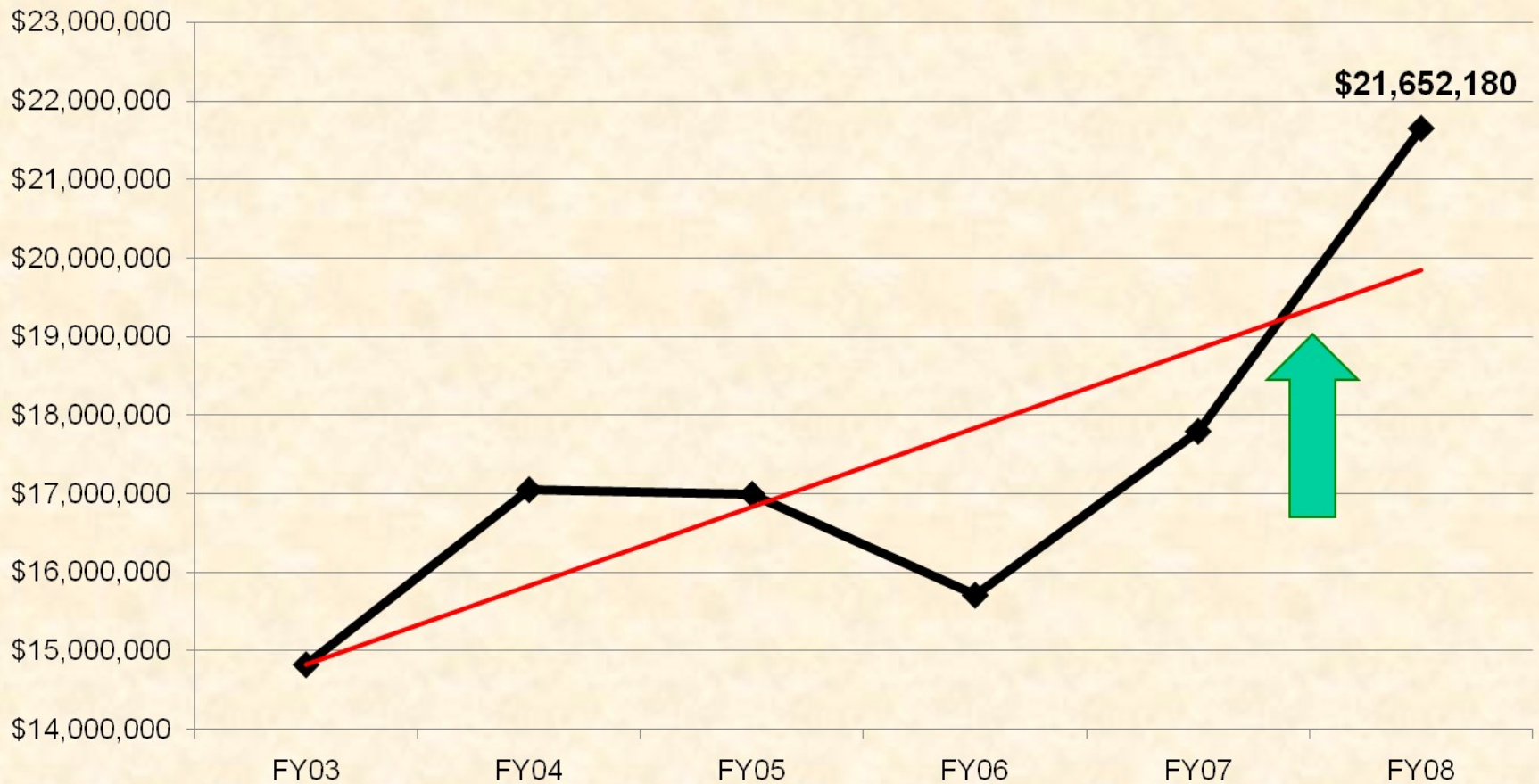




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Program Metrics: VA paid to AF- Direct Sharing

VA Paid to AF- Direct Sharing Agreements





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AFI 41-126

- **Primary reference for VA/DoD sharing guidance**
- **Published 11 May 2007**
- **Requires revision to the following areas:**
 - **References to “MAJCOMs” will be changed to “AFMOA” or “AFMSA”**
 - **Section 2.2, Command Surgeons Office, will be changed and/or eliminated in total**
 - **Chapter 3 requires revision to routing requirements for all products**
 - **Section 3.4.4 - Meeting frequency & attendance requirements will change**
 - **Section 3.6 - Requires update based on program changes**



Infants of VA Beneficiaries

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- **No sharing agreements for OB care allowed at this time**
 - **Issue - Newborn infant has no entitlement for care; no beneficiary status**
 - **Not an issue of reimbursement**
 - **Legal decision; need Title 10 and/or Title 38 changed**
- **VA requesting legislative change**
 - **Attempted this change before; no luck then**
 - **New emphasis on Veteran care; might facilitate success**

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Benefits Delivery at Discharge

- **Guidance found in “Cooperative Separation Exam MOA” signed by USD(P&R) & DEPSECVA 17 Nov 04 & AF/SG Policy & Implementation Guidance, 16 Jun 05**
- **Focuses on a cooperative process that eliminates redundancies and streamlines the transition process**
- **AD Service members - Apply for VA benefits 180 days prior to separation - Need copy of health treatment record**
- **DoD completes DD Form 2697, *Report of Medical Assessment*, provides copies of test results and any pertinent information, to the VBA Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) site**

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DES Pilot

- **LoA 1 workgroup then designed and is currently executing a Pilot program to test an improved DES process that consolidates the disability systems of DoD and VA**
- **DES Pilot now at six AF MTFs:**
 - **Andrews**
 - **Elmendorf**
 - **MacDill**
 - **Nellis**
 - **Travis**
 - **Vance**



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IM/IT - Relative to JIF & Sharing Agreements

■ Joint Incentive Fund

- Send draft proposal to AFMOA IM/IT staff prior to submission to see if it is a viable project**
- All proposed IM/IT solutions relative to enterprise systems must be approved by enterprise-level IM/IT managers**
- If disapproved, package does not get scored by FMWG**

■ Sharing Agreements

- IM/IT systems are tools used daily; therefore, they must be reviewed for impacts when working a sharing agreement**
- Electronic data sharing...**
- Information assurance & security training**
- Cross-training on each other's systems**



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Best Practices

- **Master Sharing Agreement**
- **Joint Training**
- **Joint Committees - Not just for Joint Ventures**
- **Joint Community Based Outpatient Clinics**
- **Staffing requirements**
- **Expanded radiology hours; VA provides staff**
- **Alternate Medical Facility - Contingency care**
- **Telemedicine**
- **Treatment & admissions based on patient need...both DoD & VA**
- **Capitalizing on VA nursing experience with joint staffing and/or nurse rotation**

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Common Issues & Barriers

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- **Disparate IT Health Record Systems**
- **Manual business processes for reimbursements**
- **Dual credentialing requirements**
- **Disparate missions; readiness requirements**
- **Changes in leadership**
- **Perceived lack of resolve and commitment**
- **Parochialism, concern for loss of turf and control**
- **Attitude that sharing should be financially profitable**
- **Differences in expectation for timeliness & access**
- **Differences in eligibility criteria of beneficiaries**
- **Patients with dual eligibility**
- **Differences in hiring practices (Title 38)**
- **Effects of military deployments on staffing**



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Master Sharing Agreements

- **Master Sharing Agreements are efficient sharing documents if...**
 - **You have multiple clinical services you want to share**
 - **You are using the same reimbursement methodology for each type of service; e.g., inpatient care, specialty clinics, etc.**
- **Master Sharing Agreements must contain the same information that is required for single agreements**
 - **Must identify what will be shared with an estimate of how many visits, bed days, etc.**
 - **Must include all mandatory statements**
 - **Must include reimbursement methodologies**
 - **Must provide sufficient clarity in the billing / reimbursement guidance to facilitate audits**
 - **Must include VA Form 10-1245c, MOU, and BCA/CCA/RCA**

I n t e g r i t y - S e r v i c e - E x c e l l e n c e



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Master Sharing Agreements

- **May include appendices with details for each shared area**
 - **Easy to make changes**
 - **Management operation plans**
 - **Not the MOU; no reimbursement information**
- **Business Case Analysis with Master Sharing Agreements**
 - **Yes...it must be done and it must include all services**
 - **Keep it simple... one BCA/CCA/RCA for all covered services**
 - **Use the comments section to explain your methodology for both costs and benefits by shared service**
- **All sharing agreements can be made for up to 5 years**



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BCA/CCA/RCA

- **Required with all new and amended agreements**
- **BCA is the same format as is used in the JIF Program**
- **Currency and Readiness Case Analyses are simple to complete**
 - **Question & Answer format**
 - **Explanations required for some responses**
- **Benefits should exceed costs; if not...emphasize the intangible benefits on the comments page**
- **Bartered agreement? Yes...The BCA/CCA/RCA is required!**
- **All applicable sections must be completed accurately**
 - **Remember to include MTF Name & start date on cost work sheet**
 - **Update the locality information above Personnel costs**

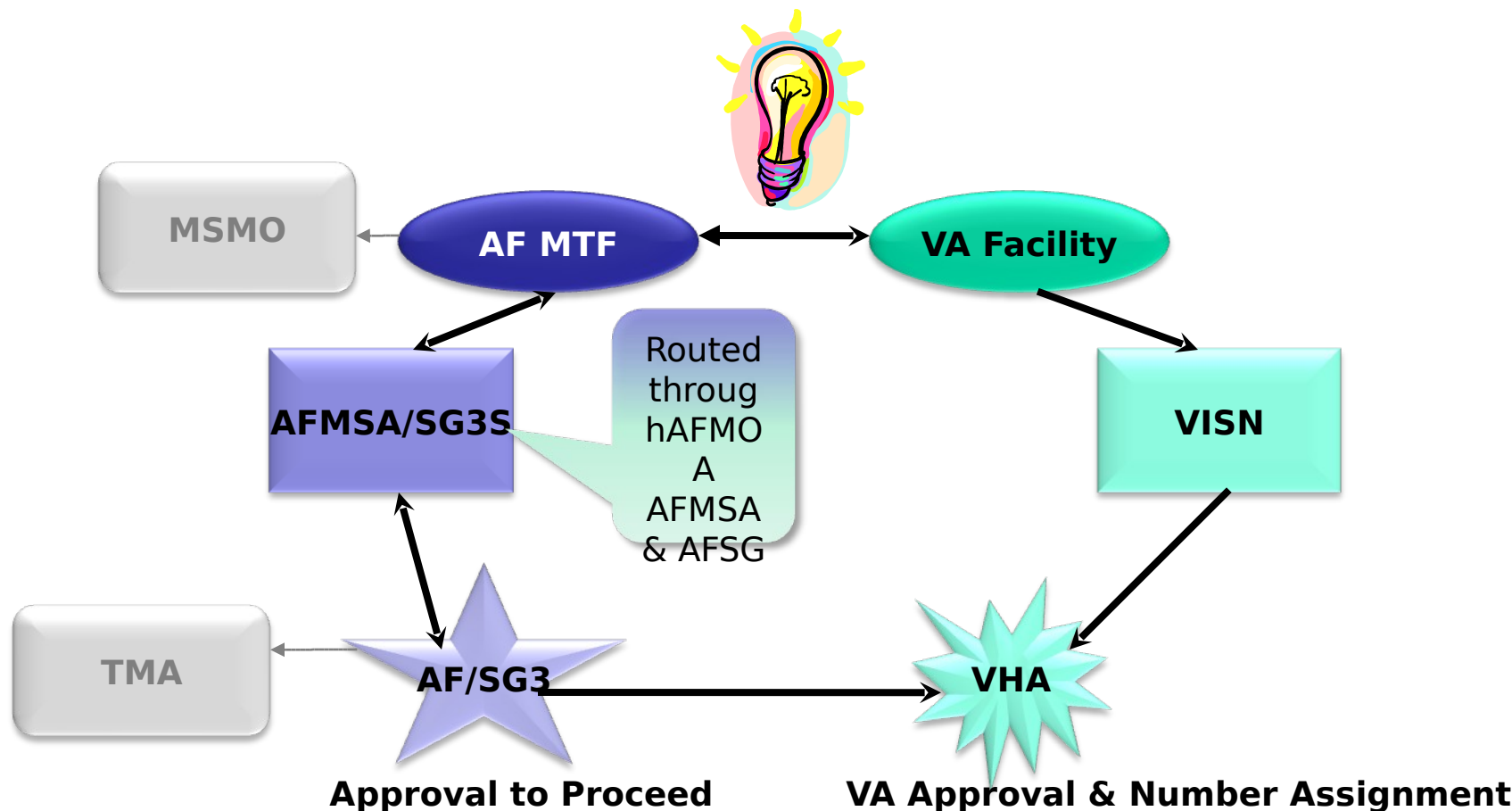
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Approval Process for Sharing Agreements

Agreement Approval Process



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Air Force/VA Resource Sharing Program Website

<https://kx.afms.mil/dodvasharing>